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Watch Committee

Watch Report

Top Secret

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31 October 1974

COMBINED WATCH REPORT of the UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

No. 1262

31 October 1974 (As of 1800 EST)

The Committee concludes that there will be no military attack on the United States or its overseas forces in the near future. Subjects of immediate concern are discussed below.

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I. Middle East

The agreement at the Arab Summit Conference to endorse the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole authority representing Palestinians on the West Bank has raised additional obstacles to progress in Middle East negotiations and has increased tensions in the area. If the current diplomatic impasse is not resolved, the risk of renewed warfare will increase sharply. Arab and Israeli forces are maintaining a state of readiness which would permit the rapid initiation of major offensive action. We continue to believe that the most dangerous threat to the cease-fire is on the Golan Heights, where a hasty decision by either side could result in hostilities with no further warning.

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Fighting continues in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, with government forces holding the initiative for the

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II. USSR-Eastern Europe

We see no indications of hostile intent in the military activity of the USSR or other Warsaw Pact nations.

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Southeast Asia III.

The Communists in South Vietnam apparently are being briefed on a new directive to achieve the overthrow of the Thieu government by a continuation of the mix of political and military action through 1974. The directive also calls, however, for a "general offensive" in 1975 should the Communists be unable to force significant gains. The North Vietnamese do have the capability to launch a 1972-scale offensive with little or no warning. believe, however, that the real purpose of this new document is to exhort the Communists to make greater efforts during an anticipated increase in fighting in the southern portion of the country.

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